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Joint Finance Committee Acts on Long Term Care

MADISON— State Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) announced the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) acted on long term care elements of the state budget today. As promised, the JFC restored Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) statewide and continued the IRIS program.

The committee also directed the Department of Health Services (DHS) to design a plan for the future of long term care in Wisconsin by July 1, 2016 that would incorporate no less than five regions to serve diverse populations throughout the state. The plan must also include a self-directed option, like the Include, Respect, I Self-Direct (IRIS) Program. DHS must also involve stakeholders in designing the new plan.

"At the JFC Hearing in Reedsburg last March, the majority of testimony focused on long term care," Marklein said. "Our action today demonstrates the impact of grassroots involvement in the legislative process."

"Citizens throughout the 17th Senate District have contacted me to support the current system of long term care in our state and keeping care decisions local," Marklein said. "I am proud to support the restoration of ADRCs, the IRIS program and local long term care decisions."

The Joint Finance Committee will continue to meet in Executive Session to revise the Governor's budget proposal before it is presented to the full legislature.

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